

# ***City of McCall Frequently Asked Questions About the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance***



## **What is the "Dark Sky" Ordinance?**

The City of McCall adopted an Outdoor Lighting Ordinance ("Dark Sky") on March 16, 2006 in order:

- ✚ To provide safe roadways for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians
- ✚ To protect against direct glare and excessive lighting
- ✚ To prevent light trespass in all areas of the City and City Area of Impact and
- ✚ To protect and reclaim the ability to view the night sky

## **How does the new ordinance affect me?**

All property owners and occupants within McCall city limits and the City Area of Impact must comply with this ordinance. All **new** lighting installed after March 16, 2006 must conform to the standards established in the Ordinance.

All **existing** lighting on property used for residential, institutional, public and semi-public uses that does not comply with the standards is required to be brought into compliance by March 16, 2007.

All existing exterior lighting on property used for commercial purposes that is not in conformance with the standards shall be brought in conformance by March 16, 2009.

## **What about my property? Will it be safe? Will I be safe?**

Leaving outdoor lights on all night gives a false sense of security. A better option is to use motion sensors attached to flood lights, or lights on a timer. The sudden light is a better deterrent to those wishing to interfere with your property. Animal intruders frighten more easily as well.

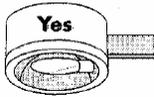
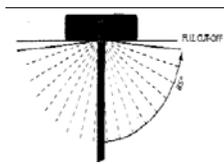
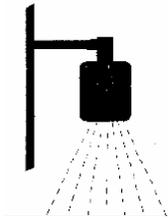
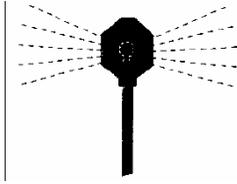
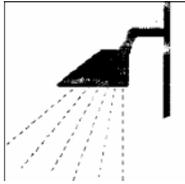


## **What *are* the new lighting standards?**

For a full description of the specific standards and the definitions included in the ordinance, as well as examples, visit the City of McCall's website at [www.mccall.id.us](http://www.mccall.id.us) and follow the "City Subdivision and Zoning Code" link to Chapter 14. In general, all exterior lighting shall be designed, located, and lamped in order to prevent:

- ✚ Over lighting
- ✚ Energy waste
- ✚ Glare
- ✚ Light Trespass
- ✚ Sky glow

Following are some examples of lights that comply with the standards:



**I like to decorate my house during the holiday season. Will this still be permitted?**

Residential holiday lighting is still allowed, from November 1<sup>st</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Flashing lights are discouraged. Residents are encouraged to turn their lights off by 11:00 pm.

Commercial holiday lighting will be allowed from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The use of timers is recommended.



**Will bringing my residence or business to the required standards be expensive?**

There are a wide variety of lighting options, ranging from inexpensive clip-on shields to "designer" fixtures that comply with the established standards, so the overall expense will depend on personal choice. Energy savings will occur when using shielded fixtures, since more light is directed toward the ground and not wasted. Lower wattage bulbs can be used to obtain the same light intensity previously provided by an unshielded, higher wattage bulb. The environment benefits as well, as less electricity is needed. Additional savings can be realized when compact fluorescent bulbs are used instead of incandescent bulbs.

**Where can I buy lighting fixtures?**

Check the yellow pages for:

- Building Materials*
- Lighting Consultants*
- Lighting Fixtures-Retail*



**Who do I call if I have questions?**

Please contact the Community Development Department at City Hall at 634-7052 for questions. Visit the City website at [www.mccall.id.us](http://www.mccall.id.us) for a complete copy of McCall City Code.